

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /058 W
-----102111Z 025973 /72

P 102104Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3783
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
ALL OTHER AMCONSULS CANADA

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJECT: FEDERAL RAMIFICATIONS OF ONTARIO ELECTIONS

REF: TORONTO 1446

1. IN EMBASSY VIEW, FAILURE OF ONTARIO PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE (PC) GOVERNMENT TO WIN MAJORITY STATUS, THE OBVIOUS AIM OF JUNE 9 ELECTION, HAS SEVERAL RAMIFICATIONS FOR FEDERAL POLITICAL SCENE.
2. FIRST, IT CONFIRMS PAINFUL LESSON LEARNED BY DAVE BARRETT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA IN 1975 AND ROBERT BOURASSA IN QUEBEC LAST NOVEMBER THAT CALLING EARLY ELECTIONS WITHOUT PRESSING ISSUE IS VERY RISKY BUSINESS. WE ASSUME THAT FEDERAL LIBERALS WILL NOW THINK LONG AND HARD ABOUT CALLING NATIONAL ELECTIONS NEXT FALL TO CAPITALIZE ON FAT POLLING LEAD OVER PC OPPOSITION. ON OTHER HAND, PROVINCIAL LIBERALS DID SURPRISINGLY WELL, MOVING INTO OFFICIAL OPPOSITION POSITION AHEAD OF PROVINCIAL NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP). ANALYSTS NOW CLOSELY EXAMINING RESULTS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THIS DUE

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TO PERSONAL EFFORTS OF PROVINCIAL LEADER STUART SMITH OR TO COATTAIL EFFECT OF TRUDEAU POPULARITY IN ONTARIO. IF LATTER, NATIONAL LIBERALS MAY STILL BE TEMPTED TO CALL FALL ELECTIONS.

3. SECOND, ONTARIO ELECTIONS BEING INTERPRETED AS PERSONAL BLOW TO PC LEADER DAVIS AND THERE IS TALK OF

HIS BEING REPLACED AS PC PROVINCIAL LEADER AT END OF
HIS PRESENT MANDATE IN ABOUT THREE AND ONE-HALF YEARS.
YESTERDAY'S SETBACK WEAKENS HIS POSITION AS ONE OF
STRONGEST PROVINCIAL VOICES FOR NATIONAL UNITY. HIS
NAME ALSO MENTIONED AS CONCEIVABLE SUCCESSOR TO PC
LEADER JOE CLARK SHOULD CLARK LEADERSHIP BE SERIOUSLY
CHALLENGED AT PC PARTY CONVENTION NEXT FALL. RETURNS
YESTERDAY SEEM TO RULE OUT THAT POSSIBILITY. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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